GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1711
ANSWERED ON:19.07.2004
HORTICULTURE POLICY
Patil Shri Shriniwas Dadasaheb

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Horticulture Policy implemented under Employment Guarantee Scheme in Maharashtra;

(b) whether the Union Government is planning to pursue State Governments to formulate Horticulture Policy to enhance horticultural production;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Union Government has received any proposal from the Government of Maharashtra to establish National Research Centre for pomegranate in the State; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA)

(a): Government of Maharashtra is implementing a Scheme for horticulture development under the Employment Guarantee Scheme in Maharashtra since 1990-91. In this Scheme farmers belonging to Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribes, Nav-Baudhas, De-notified Tribes / Nomadic Tribes including Small and Marginal farmers are provided with 100 per cent subsidy on labour charges incurred on cultivation of horticulture crops. The subsidy on the expenditure on inputs is also paid at 25% for the first year, 25% for the second year and 50% for the third year.

(b) & (c): Government of India is providing assistance for horticulture development under Macro Management Schemes in which State Government has the flexibility to formulate horticulture policy for enhancing horticulture production in the State.

(d) & (e): Yes. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has received proposal from the Government of Maharashtra to establish National Research Centre (NRC) for Pomegranate in the State. The site has been selected by the Site Selection Committee of the ICAR at villages Kegaon / Hiraj, Taluk− North Sholapur, District− Sholapur in Maharashtra for establishing the Regional Station of the Central Institute of Arid Horticulture (CIAH), Bikaner, which has been approved in the X Five Year Plan. The Maharashtra Government has agreed to hand over the land at the selected site and the ICAR has initiated the process for taking over the land. This Regional Station will do research work on pomegranate and other mandated crops of CIAH, Bikaner, like ber, aonla and others.